

A COMMUNICATION TO THE FELLOWS  
OF THE  
NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE\*

THE Council of The New York Academy of Medicine has directed the President to appoint a committee to survey, in searching fashion, the objectives, functions and activities of the Academy as they exist today. The Survey Committee is also charged with the task of making recommendations concerning future procedure and policies, as well as effective and practical means for executing them.

Such a formal survey has never before been attempted. Some of the more cogent reasons for undertaking it at this time are: first, the organizational and corporate growth of the Academy since its founding one hundred and ten years ago; second, the expansion of its activities, both in medical and adjacent fields; third, a desire to retain the position of leadership which it has attained, not only in the local community, but throughout the nation and abroad. In each of these reasons are implied certain responsibilities which must be met, thoughtfully and with foresight. But an even stronger motive for self-examination is afforded by the altered scene in which the Academy operates. Numerous factors have served to bring about new viewpoints, both lay and professional, toward medicine in the modern world. Among these may be mentioned the impact of insurance, of medical care in industry, of labor union participation, of the educational experiments and programs in universities and hospitals, the increase in the number of societies devoted to medical specialties, the rise of voluntary health agencies and the growing part played by governmental public health services. There is a general awareness of the importance of basic research. The interplay of professional and lay journalism, as well as the wide potential influence of radio and television, cannot be ignored. The Academy, in order to meet its obligations and render the greatest possible service, must adapt itself to a changing environment.

\* This communication appeared first in the October, 1957 number of the *Bulletin* (p. 663). Because of its importance it is deemed advisable to publish it a second time. *Editor.*

In compliance with the directive of the Council, your President has appointed the following Fellows as a Survey Committee, under the general chairmanship of Dr. William Barclay Parsons, and each will act as chairman of a subcommittee to study one phase of the activities of the Academy:

<i>Administration:</i>	Marcus D. Kogel
<i>Building &amp; Plant:</i>	Condict W. Cutler, Jr.
<i>Bulletin:</i>	Louis J. Soffer
<i>Finance:</i>	Henry N. Pratt
<i>Library:</i>	George Rosen
<i>Medical Education:</i>	Dickinson W. Richards, Jr.
<i>Medical Information:</i>	John H. Garlock
<i>Public Health:</i>	Duncan W. Clark

This group and its Chairman, Dr. Parsons, constitute an Executive Committee. Comments, critical or otherwise, are earnestly solicited from the Fellows concerning any aspect of the activities or operation of the Academy. Such communications should be addressed to Dr. Parsons or to one of the subcommittee Chairmen to whose particular field of study the comments may appropriately apply; these may be sent to the Academy address.

The Survey Committee will submit its findings and recommendations to the Council for approval and action. It is anticipated that the final report will be ready for publication during the coming year.

It is the sincere hope of the Officers and Council that the entire Fellowship will contribute of its experience and thinking to this project, so that the usefulness of the Academy, to its Fellows, to the medical profession at large and to the community, may be increased.

Robert L. Levy  
*President*

William Barclay Parsons  
*Chairman, Survey Committee*

Howard Reid Craig  
*Director*